

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 04700 150307Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
IO-13 HA-05 TRSE-00 /082 W  
-----026247 152323Z /73

R 141111Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7883  
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN  
AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 4700

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, NI  
SUBJECT: SHARIA: THE NORTHERNERS ARE STILL OUT

REF: (A) KADUNA 465, (B) LAGOS 4562, (C) LAGOS 4190

SUMMARY: NORTHERN MCA'S HAVE NOT YET RETURNED TO THE CA.  
THE REAL TEST WILL COME MONDAY, APRIL 17. END SUMMARY.

1. NORTHERN MCA'S WHO WALKED OUT OF THE  
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY (CA) OVER ITS SHARIA  
DECISION HAVE NOT YET RETURNED TO THE ASSEMBLY.  
IN THEIR APRIL 10 STATEMENT (REF B), THE  
NORTHERNERS HAD SAID THEY MIGHT RETURN WHEN  
THE CA CONCLUDED ITS CONSIDERATION OF THE  
JUDICIAL SECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION. THE CA  
DID IN FACT FINISH THAT SECTION ON TUESDAY  
AND TURNED ITS ATTENTION TO TIDYING UP THE  
DETAILS OF THE LEGISLATIVE LIST SYSTEM (REF C).  
THE ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED TODAY AT NOON APRIL 13  
FOR THE WEEKEND AND WILL TURN ITS ATTENTION ON  
MONDAY TO CHAPTER 4 OF THE DRAFT, FUNDAMENTAL  
RIGHTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 04700 150307Z

2. COMMENT: SOUTHERN MCA'S ARE NOT AS YET TAKING  
SERIOUSLY THE NORTHERN FAILURE TO RETURN TO THE  
ASSEMBLY. IN A CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER,  
I.N. ANI (ANAMBRA) SAID THAT THE REAL  
TEST WOULD COME MONDAY. HE EXPECTED THE NORTHERNERS  
TO RETURN AT THAT TIME. ANI ADDED THAT MOST SOUTHERN

MEMBERS FELT THAT THE NORTHERN WALKOUT HAD BEEN A PUBLIC RELATIONS EXERCISE. THEY HAD FOR THE MOST PART BEEN PARTIES TO THE ADEBO COMPROMISE. FYI: ANI'S ACCOUNT WAS CONFIRMED IN STATEMENTS BY ADEBO AND PAUL UNONGO TO THE CA, AS REPORTED IN THE APRIL 14 NEW NIGERIAN, IN WHICH THEY SAID THAT THE NORTHERN MCA'S IN ADEBO'S COMMITTEE HAD IN FACT AGREED TO THE COMPROMISE. END FYI. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO ANI, THE NORTHERNERS HAD PROMISED THEIR CONSTITUENTS A FEDERAL SHARIA COURT OF APPEAL WHEN THEY HAD BEEN ELECTED TO THE ASSEMBLY -- THUS, THE WALKOUT.

3. CHAPTER 4 ON FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS WILL PRESENT THE CA

WITH TWO PROBLEMS, ONE LONG ANTICIPATED, THE OTHER OF RECENT ORIGIN. THE EXPECTED PROBLEM IS THE ISSUE OF PRESS FREEDOM. THE DRAFT CONTAINS LANGUAGE WHICH SOME MCA'S WISH TO STRENGTHEN. OUR SOURCES IN THE CA DO NOT EXPECT A SERIOUS FIGHT OVER THE ISSUE HOWEVER.

4. A SLEEPER ISSUE COULD BE THE QUESTION OF LANDOWNERSHIP AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT CONTROVERSIAL LAND USE DECREE. THE DRAFT CONTAINS STRONG LANGUAGE GUARANTEEING THE RIGHTS TO HOLD PROPERTY AND TO RECEIVE ADQUATE DOMPENSATION IN THE CASE OF COMPULSORY ACQUISITION. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT OPPONENTS OF THE LAND USE DECREE, PARTICULARLY MCA'S FROM YORUBA STATES, WILL THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THE DECREE INTO A CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 04700 150307Z

CA ISSUE. END COMMENT.  
WYMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISPUTES, POLITICAL SITUATION, CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978LAGOS04700  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780163-0203  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** LAGOS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780455/aaaaburn.tel  
**Line Count:** 96  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 37a101b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 KADUNA 465, 78 LAGOS 4562, 78 LAGOS 4190  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2964145  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SHARIA: THE NORTHERNERS ARE STILL OUT  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PDEV, NI  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/37a101b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014